

REMARKS

Entry of the above amendments to the claims and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-5 are pending in this application, of which claim 1 is independent. In the Final Office Action dated June 28, 2006, the Examiner maintained the rejections of claims 1-5. Specifically, claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,458,391 ("*Scarpini*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,006,552 ("*Matsuda*"), claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Scarpini* in view of *Matsuda* and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,334,556 ("*Frohlich*"), and claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Scarpini* in view of *Matsuda* and in further view of what the combination would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner did not address Applicant's arguments set forth in the Reply filed on April 11, 2006. While Applicant believes that the above-mentioned Reply overcomes the Examiner's rejections, Applicant has amended claims 1-5 to further distinguish the invention in order to facilitate the allowance of these claims. No new subject matter has been added. Supports for the amendments may be found, for example, at page 10, line 22 to page 14, line 8 and in FIGS. 1 and 2.

In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite a) "wherein two core strings are woven into front and rear faces of the slide fastener tape at the element-mounting edge portion so as to sandwich the front and rear faces of the slide fastener tape," and b) "wherein a warp of said element-mounting edge portion is disposed outside said core strings so as to be on an opposite side of the warp of said element-mounting edge

portion disposed between said core strings and said tape main portion with said core strings interposed therebetween.” Applicant submits that none of the references cited by the Examiner show or suggest the above features of amended claim 1.

Specifically, *Scarpini*, as shown in its FIG. 1, is merely directed to a tape having a single carrier cord 4. Therefore, *Scarpini* fails to show or suggest the above features a) “wherein two core strings are woven into front and rear faces of the slide fastener tape at the element-mounting edge portion so as to sandwich the front and rear faces of the slide fastener tape” and b) “wherein a warp of said element-mounting edge portion is disposed outside said core strings so as to be on an opposite side of the warp of said element-mounting edge portion disposed between said core strings and said tape main portion with said core strings interposed therebetween.” *Scarpini*, as conceded by the Examiner, also fails to show or suggest the required features c) “wherein a foundation warp used for said tape main portion has a lower thermal contraction coefficient than warps used for said element-mounting edge portion,” d) “wherein a warp of said element-mounting edge portion is disposed outside said core strings so as to be on an opposite side of the warp of said element-mounting edge portion disposed between said core strings and said tape main portion with said core strings interposed therebetween,” and e) “wherein said core strings have a higher thermal contraction coefficient than all warps.”

Matsuda fails to cure the deficiencies of *Scarpini*. As illustrated in its FIG. 3, *Matsuda* is directed to a warp-knit slide fastener having no core string of any kind. Without disclosure or suggestion of any core string, *Matsuda* at least fails to show or suggest the above feature a) requiring two core strings. *Matsuda* also fails to show or

suggest the above feature b), which creates an edge portion 7 for supporting folded-back portions of wefts at a side edge opposite to a side edge on which an edge portion 3 is formed, thereby creating a stabilized fastener tape shape (see Applicant's FIG. 1). This means *Matsuda* cannot enable two core strings to be woven into the front and rear faces of the fastener tape so as to sandwich the tape faces as shown, for example, in Applicant's FIG. 2. As a result, *Matsuda* additionally cannot show or suggest core strings that are able to move freely in a warp direction and carry out thermal contractions as in the claimed invention. (See page 13, line 10-16 and page 13, line 17 to page 14, line 1).

Accordingly, at least because both *Scarpini* and *Matsuda* individually and in combination fail to show, teach, or suggest each and every element of amended claim 1, amended claim 1 is patentable over the combination of *Scarpini* and *Matsuda* under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and are, therefore, also novel and patentable over the combination of *Scarpini* and *Matsuda* under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for at least the same reasons.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully points out that the Final Action by the Examiner presented some new arguments as to the application of the art against Applicant's invention. It is respectfully submitted that the entering of the amendment would allow the Applicant to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicant submits that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the entry of this amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

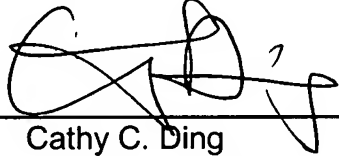
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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